

TITLE

PAPER SIZE RECOGNIZING DEVICE FOR IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

[0001] This application makes reference to, incorporates the same herein, and claims all benefits accruing under 35 U.S.C. §119 from my application *PAPER SIZE RECOGNIZING DEVICE FOR IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS* filed with the Korean Industrial Property Office on 29 December 2000 and there duly assigned Serial No. 86387/2000.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Technical Field

[0002] The present invention relates to a paper size recognizing device for recognizing a size of paper and more particularly, relates to a paper size recognizing device capable of automatically recognizing a variety of standardized and non-standardized paper sizes upon loading of a paper cassette.

Related Art

[0003] An image forming apparatus such as a laser printer, a photocopier, and so on has a removable cassette holding a plurality of sheets of printing paper to be stacked. In an image forming apparatus, a user recognizes information in advance based on the size of the paper

1 stacked in the cassette and inputs the information through a control panel of the image forming
2 apparatus. For example, in many cases, cassettes which exclusively accommodate standardized
3 paper defined in A4, B4, and so on, are mounted in the main body of the image forming
4 apparatus, and paper is drawn for use out of a cassette designated based on inputted control
5 signals.

6 [0004] Further, in many cases, a user manipulates an operation button disposed on a printer
7 front panel and the like in order for the paper of desired size to be supplied from a corresponding
8 cassette, or physically mounts the corresponding cassette, or changes the mounting position of
9 the cassette.

10 [0005] Accordingly, since the user of the existing image forming apparatus has to designate a
11 desired size in order to use the paper of desired size, it causes an inconvenience, and, particularly,
12 since the paper of non-standardized size is not recognized quite often, using the paper itself can
13 be difficult.

14 **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

15 [0006] The present invention has been devised to solve the problems of a paper size
16 recognizing device for an image forming apparatus as stated above. It is an object of the present
17 invention to provide a paper size recognizing apparatus for an image forming apparatus, capable
18 of automatically recognizing and providing in real-time information on standardized and non-

1 standardized diverse paper sizes upon loading cassettes.

2 [0007] In order to achieve the above object and others, a paper size recognizing device for an
3 image forming apparatus according to the present invention, in a paper size recognizing device
4 for an image forming apparatus having a paper size recognizing unit for recognizing a size of
5 sheets of paper loaded in a cassette detachably mounted in a main body of the image forming
6 apparatus, comprises the paper size recognizing unit including: paper-aligning guides linear-
7 reciprocally mounted to closely align the sheets of paper loaded in the cassette in one direction;
8 signal-generating unit interlocked with the paper-aligning guides, and for generating plural signal
9 codes selectively combined in predetermined patterns; switching unit mounted in the main body
10 to be selectively operated in response to the signal codes generated by the signal-generated unit
11 upon mounting the cassette; and controller for outputting as an electrical signal paper size
12 information through signal information inputted by operations of the switching unit.

13 [0008] According to the present invention having the above structure, the signal-generating
14 unit preferably includes plural fixed signal openings formed to be arranged in a predetermined
15 pattern in a side wall of the cassette; a signal-producing panel for producing plural signal codes
16 selected in any one of patterns by plural combinations arranged in a state that plural movable
17 signal openings formed in a body by reciprocating along the side wall of the cassette in
18 association with the paper-aligning guides communicate with the fixed signal openings
19 respectively; and interlocking unit for mutually interlocking the page-aligning guides and the

1 signal-producing panels.

2 [0009] Further, the switching unit is movably mounted in the main body forwards and
3 backwards according to attaching and detaching directions of the cassette, and preferably
4 includes plural slide pins selectively moving forwards and backwards by being interfered by a
5 signal code produced by the signal-generating unit upon mounting the cassette and photo sensors
6 as a sensing unit for sensing the forward and backward movements of each slide pin.

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[0010] Furthermore, in order to achieve the above object and others, another paper size
recognizing device for an image forming apparatus, in a paper size recognizing device for an
image forming apparatus having a paper size recognizing unit for recognizing a size of sheets of
paper loaded in a cassette detachably mounted in a main body of the image forming apparatus,
comprises the paper size recognizing unit including a longitudinal paper-aligning guide and a
lateral paper-aligning guide paper-aligning guides linear-reciprocally mounted in a direction
perpendicular to each other to closely align the sheets of paper loaded in the cassette in
longitudinal and lateral direction; signal-generating unit interlocked with the longitudinal and
lateral paper-aligning guides, and for generating plural signal codes selectively combined in
predetermined patterns; switching unit mounted in the main body to be selectively operated in
response to the signal codes generated by the signal-generated unit upon mounting the cassette;
and controller for outputting as an electrical signal paper size information through signal
information inputted by operations of the switching unit.

1 [0011] According to the present invention having the above structure, the switching unit is
2 movably mounted in the main body forwards and backwards according to attaching and
3 detaching directions of the cassette, and includes plural slide pins selectively moving forwards
4 and backwards by being interfered by a signal code produced by the signal-generating unit upon
5 mounting the cassette and contact switches correspondingly mounted around end portions of the
6 slide pins and selectively and electrically contacted according to whether the end portions move
7 forwards or backwards.

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[0012] To achieve these and other objects in accordance with the principles of the present invention, as embodied and broadly described, the present invention provides an apparatus recognizing a size of media, said apparatus comprising: a media aligning guide being mounted on a cassette and being movable to a plurality of different positions to align media loaded in the cassette, the cassette being detachably mounted in a main body; a signal generating unit being interlocked with said media aligning guide, said signal generating unit generating a plurality of signal codes in response to a current position of said media aligning guide; a switching unit being mounted on the main body, said switching unit switching in response to the generated signal codes when the cassette is mounted in the main body; and a control unit outputting a size signal in response to said switching of said switching unit, said size signal corresponding to a size of the media loaded into the cassette.

[0013] To achieve these and other objects in accordance with the principles of the present invention, as embodied and broadly described, the present invention provides an apparatus

1 recognizing a size of media, said apparatus comprising: a first media aligning guide being
2 mounted on a cassette and being reciprocally movable to a plurality of different positions along a
3 first line in a first direction to closely align the media loaded in the cassette, the cassette being
4 detachably mounted in a main body; a second media aligning guide being mounted on the
5 cassette and being reciprocally movable to a plurality of different positions along a second line in
6 a second direction to closely align the media loaded in the cassette, said first direction being
7 substantially perpendicular to said second direction; a signal generating unit being interlocked
8 with said first and second media aligning guides, said signal generating unit generating a plurality
9 of signal codes in response to a current position of said first and second media aligning guides; a
10 switching unit being mounted on the main body, said switching unit switching in response to the
11 generated signal codes when the cassette is mounted in the main body; and a control unit
12 outputting a size signal in response to said switching of said switching unit, said size signal
13 corresponding to a size of the media loaded into the cassette.

14 [0014] To achieve these and other objects in accordance with the principles of the present
15 invention, as embodied and broadly described, the present invention provides an apparatus
16 recognizing a size of media, said apparatus comprising: a first media aligning guide being
17 mounted on a cassette and being reciprocally movable to a plurality of different positions along a
18 first line in a first direction to closely align media loaded in the cassette, the cassette being
19 detachably mounted in a main body; a second media aligning guide being mounted on the
20 cassette and being reciprocally movable to a plurality of different positions along a second line in

1 a second direction to closely align the media loaded in the cassette, said first direction being
2 substantially perpendicular to said second direction; a signal generating unit being interlocked
3 with said first and second media aligning guides, said signal generating unit generating a plurality
4 of signal codes in response to a current position of said first and second media aligning guides,
5 said plurality of signal codes having combinations respectively corresponding to sizes of media;
6 a switching unit switching in response to the generated signal codes when the cassette is mounted
7 in the main body; and a control unit outputting a size signal in response to said switching of said
8 switching unit, said size signal corresponding to a size of the media loaded into the cassette, said
9 first and second media aligning guides being moved in response to touching edges of the media
10 when the media is loaded into the cassette, said first and second media aligning guides having a
11 current position corresponding to the size of the media when the media is loaded into the
12 cassette.

13 [0015] The present invention is more specifically described in the following paragraphs by
14 reference to the drawings attached only by way of example. Other advantages and features will
15 become apparent from the following description and from the claims.

16 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

17 [0016] In the accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this
18 specification, embodiments of the invention are illustrated, which, together with a general
19 description of the invention given above, and the detailed description given below, serve to

1 exemplify the principles of this invention.

2 [0017] FIG. 1 is a partially cross-sectioned exploded perspective view for schematically
3 showing a paper size recognizing device for an image forming apparatus and the top side of a
4 cassette, in accordance with the principles of the present invention;

5 [0018] FIG. 2 is an exploded perspective view for showing main parts of FIG. 1 taken in the
6 direction of an arrow 'C', in accordance with the principles of the present invention;

7 [0019] FIG. 3 is a schematic perspective view for showing the bottom side of the cassette of
8 FIG. 1, in accordance with the principles of the present invention; and

9 [0020] FIG. 4 is a view for showing an example of unique signal codes generated by paper size
10 produced by the paper size recognizing device for an image forming apparatus, in accordance
11 with the principles of the present invention.

12 **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT**

13 [0021] While the present invention will be described more fully hereinafter with reference to
14 the accompanying drawings, in which preferred embodiments of the present invention are shown,
15 it is to be understood at the outset of the description which follows that persons of skill in the
16 appropriate arts may modify the invention here described while still achieving the favorable
17 results of this invention. Accordingly, the description which follows is to be understood as being
18 a broad, teaching disclosure directed to persons of skill in the appropriate arts, and not as limiting
19 upon the present invention.

1 [0022] Illustrative embodiments of the invention are described below. In the interest of clarity,
2 not all features of an actual implementation are described. In the following description, well-
3 known functions or constructions are not described in detail since they would obscure the
4 invention in unnecessary detail. It will be appreciated that in the development of any actual
5 embodiment numerous implementation-specific decisions must be made to achieve the
6 developers' specific goals, such as compliance with system-related and business-related
7 constraints, which will vary from one implementation to another. Moreover, it will be
8 appreciated that such a development effort might be complex and time-consuming, but would
9 nevertheless be a routine undertaking for those of ordinary skill having the benefit of this
10 disclosure.

11 [0023] Hereinafter, a paper size recognizing device for an image forming apparatus according
12 to a preferred embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to
13 the accompanying drawings. As shown in FIG. 1, a paper size recognizing device for an image
14 forming apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention comprises a paper
15 cassette 100 detachably mounted in a direction (arrow 'B') perpendicular to a paper-feeding
16 direction (arrow 'A') with respect to a main body 10 of an image forming apparatus, a pair of
17 paper-aligning guides 110 and 120 linearly and reciprocally movable on the bottom of the
18 cassette in directions orthogonal to each other, a signal-generating unit 200 associated with the
19 paper-aligning guides 110 and 120 and for generating plural signal codes selectively combined in
20 certain patterns, a switching unit 300 mounted in the main body 10 to be selectively operated in

1 response to the signal codes generated by the signal-generating unit 200 upon the loading of the
2 cassette 100, and a control unit 400 for outputting electrical signal information on a paper size of
3 sheets of paper stacked in the cassette 10 through the signal information inputted by the
4 operations of the switching unit 300. The paper-aligning guide 110 can abut the edge of the
5 paper in the cassette 100 to align the paper in the cassette 100. The arrow 'A' indicates a
6 direction in which paper is fed from the cassette 100 seriatim, when the paper is automatically
7 fed into the image forming device for printing.

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[0024] In this description of the present invention, sheets of paper are described as being placed in cassette 100, and then the size of the sheets of the paper is automatically recognized by the present invention. Paper is one example of a recordable media. In addition, the present invention can detect the size of media other than paper. For example, recordable media such as plastic transparencies and other media can be used in lieu of paper with the present invention. The present invention can also be used with sheets of adhesive labels, perforated sheets of business cards, and other media. For example, when sheets of plastic transparencies are placed in cassette 100, then the size of the sheets of transparencies is recognized by the present invention, in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

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[0025] The paper-aligning guides 110 and 120 are a longitudinal paper-aligning guide and a lateral paper-aligning guide, respectively, for closely aligning the sheets of paper 1 loaded in the cassette 100 in the width direction and in the length direction, which are slidably connected in

1 guide grooves 101 and 102 formed on the bottom of the cassette 100 and in directions
2 perpendicular to each other and independently move to each other.

3 [0026] Accordingly, the longitudinal and lateral paper-aligning guides 110 and 120, for
4 example, guide various types of paper of standardized and non-standardized sizes such as sheets
5 of paper having the same length but having different widths or having the same width but having
6 different lengths and closely contact the paper, to thereby align the sheets of paper in an orderly
7 loaded state.

8 [0027] The signal-generating part 200, as shown in FIG. 2, includes a plurality of fixed signal
9 openings 201 formed in a region of a side wall of the cassette 100 to be arranged in a certain
10 pattern, and signal-producing panel 210 and a slide member 220 associated with each of the
11 longitudinal and lateral paper-aligning guides 110 and 120 and for individually and selectively
12 opening and closing the fixed signal openings 201. The fixed signal openings 201 can also be
13 described as apertures or orifices.

14 [0028] The signal-producing panel 210 and the slide member 220, as shown, are
15 accommodated in a state arranged side by side one on another in a slide accommodation space
16 part 103 equipped in the side wall of the cassette 100, and linearly reciprocates along the slide
17 accommodation space part 103 in association with each of the longitudinal paper-aligning guide
18 110 and lateral paper-aligning guide 120 by a predetermined interlock unit.

1 [0029] According to the present invention, the interlock unit, as shown in FIG. 3, includes a
2 first interlock unit for associating the longitudinal paper-aligning guide 110 with the signal-
3 producing panel 210, and a second interlock unit for associating the lateral paper-aligning guide
4 120 with the slide member 220.

5 [0030] As shown in FIG. 3, the first interlock unit includes an arm member 106 freely rotated
6 by a rotating shaft 105 mounted on the bottom of the cassette 100. Both ends of the arm member
7 106 are rotatably connected to the bottom of the longitudinal paper-aligning guide 110 and the
8 bottom of the signal-producing panel 210 respectively by connection pins P1 and P2.

9 [0031] Accordingly, the arm member 106 is in rotating movements according to the linearly
10 reciprocating movements of the longitudinal paper-aligning guide 110 in association with the
11 signal-producing panel 210, to thereby have the signal-producing panel 210 perform linearly
12 reciprocating movements.

13 [0032] Further, the second interlock unit includes a cam protrusion 121 protruded from the
14 lower side of the lateral paper-aligning guide 120, and a rotating member 123 formed on the
15 bottom of the cassette 100 in order to interfere with the cam protrusion 121 for rotation.

16 [0033] The rotating member 123 has a cam curve portion 123a along which a cam follows
17 through complementary operations with the cam protrusion 121, and is mounted to be elastically
18 biased in one direction by a spring 's' mounted in the cassette 100.

1 [0034] Accordingly, the rotating member 123 linearly reciprocates the slide member 220
2 associated thereto by rotating a free end thereof according to the linear reciprocating movements
3 of the lateral paper-aligning guide 120.

4 [0035] The fixed signal openings 201 and movable signal openings 211 are each adjacently
5 arranged with unit signal openings of the same standard in a multi-stepped manner to form a
6 predetermined pattern on a horizontal reference line, forming to be combined in a way capable of
7 opening and closing each other. The movable signal openings 211 can also be described as
8 apertures or orifices. Each one of the fixed signal openings 201 and the movable signal openings
9 211 can have a uniform unit height, such that at least more than three units of the uniform unit
10 height are arranged from top to bottom.

11 [0036] According to one embodiment of the present invention, the fixed signal openings 201,
12 as shown in FIG. 2, are preferably formed to be arranged in four steps with a first fixed signal
13 opening 201a formed in a lower portion of the side wall of the cassette 100, a second fixed signal
14 opening 201b formed to be adjoined in an upper diagonal direction of the first fixed signal
15 opening 201a, a third fixed signal opening 201c formed to be adjoined in an upper diagonal
16 direction of the second fixed opening 201b and to be placed above the first fixed signal opening
17 201a and spaced apart from the first fixed signal opening 201a, and a fourth fixed signal opening
18 201d formed to communicate in the straight upper direction of the third fixed signal opening
19 201c.

1 [0037] Further, the movable signal openings 211, as shown, are arranged to be combined with
2 multiple openings corresponding to each of the second to fourth fixed signal openings 201b to
3 201d, to produce plural signal codes corresponding to various paper sizes.

4 [0038] With the above structure, the signal-producing panel 210 is restrained by the arm
5 member 106 according the movements of the longitudinal paper-aligning guide 110 and
6 interlockingly moves along the slide accommodation space part 103 in the side wall of the
7 cassette 100. Accordingly, the plural movable signal openings 211 formed in the body of the
8 signal-producing panel 210 produces plural signal codes selected in any one of patterns based on
9 plural combinations arranged in a state of individually communicating, opening, and closing with
10 respect to the second through fourth fixed signal openings 201b through 201d formed in the side
11 wall of the cassette 100.

12 [0039] The second slide member 220 is restrained by the rotating member 123 according to the
13 movements of the lateral paper-aligning guide 120 to interlockingly move along the slide
14 accommodation space part 103 of the side wall of the cassette 100. Accordingly, the first fixed
15 signal opening 201a is selectively opened and closed to additionally produce a separate signal
16 code by a combination with a signal code produced according to the movements of the signal-
17 producing panel 210.

18 [0040] According to one aspect of the present invention, the switching unit 300, as shown in

1 FIG. 2, includes plural slide pins 311, 312, 313, and 314 mounted on a bracket 310 supported on
2 the main body 10 of the image forming apparatus to move forward and backward with an
3 interference by a signal code produced by a combination state that the fixed signal openings 201
4 and the movable signal openings 211 communicate by means of the signal-generating part 200
5 upon loading the cassette 100, and photo sensors P are mounted on a rear end side of the slide
6 pins 311 to 314 to correspond to the respective slide pins 311 to 314 to detect whether the
7 respective slide pins 311 to 314 move forward or backward, and to output the detection
8 information to a controller 400.

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[0041] The slide pins 311 to 314, as shown, include a first slide pin 311, a second slide pin
10 312, a third slide pin 313, and a fourth slide pin 314 positioned to correspond to the respective
11 first through fourth fixed signal openings 201a through 204d formed in the side wall of the
12 cassette 100.

13 [0042] The first fixed signal opening 201a is an aperture formed in the wall of the cassette
14 100. The slide pin 311 can penetrate the first fixed signal aperture 201a only when at least one of
15 the movable signal openings 211 in the movable panel 210 is aligned with the aperture 210a.
16 When one of the movable signal openings 211 or movable signal apertures 211 is aligned with
17 the aperture 201a, a through-hole is formed. The slide pin 311 penetrates the formed through-
18 hole and then the switching unit 300 detects that the through-hole was formed at aperture 201a.

1 [0043] A first combination of through-holes and blocked holes is formed when one or more
2 apertures of the fixed apertures 201a and movable apertures 211 are aligned or not aligned. This
3 first combination can be referred to as a size pattern. A second combination of through-holes is
4 formed when one or more apertures of the fixed apertures 201 is blocked or not blocked by the
5 slide member 220. This second combination can be referred to as a size code. The size pattern
6 and size code can enable the present invention to be flexible and to be more useful due to
7 adaptability. In other words, the first combination can be formed by the interaction of the panel
8 210 moving in relation to the fixed openings 201, with particular through-holes being formed and
9 being blocked due to that interaction of the panel 210 and the fixed openings 201. The second
10 combination can be formed by the interaction of the slide member 220 moving in relation to the
11 fixed openings 201, with particular through-holes being formed or blocked due to that interaction
12 of the slide member 220 and the fixed openings 201. Figure 4 shows one possible example of a
13 table of unique signal codes including size patterns and size codes.

14 [0044] In the meantime, according to another aspect of the present invention, as a device for
15 detecting the forward and backward movements of the slide pins 311 through 314, contact
16 switches electrically contacted with the slide pins 311 to 314 linearly moved may replace the
17 photo sensors P.

18 [0045] The photo sensors and the contact switches, for example, are mounted to be electrically
19 connected with a circuit board installed to be connected with the controller.

1 [0046] In the paper size recognizing device of an image forming apparatus according to the
2 present invention, not only the longitudinal paper-aligning guide 110 and the lateral paper-
3 aligning guide 120 move to be arranged to a size of the paper loaded in the cassette 100, but the
4 information on the paper size can be produced as a unique signal code, so that the information on
5 the size of the paper loaded in the cassette 100 can be detected when the cassette 100 is loaded in
6 the main body 10 of the image forming apparatus.

7 [0047] Hereinafter, an operation process of the paper size recognizing device for the image
8 forming apparatus according to the present invention as stated above will be described in detail.

9 [0048] First of all, if a user loads sheets of paper in the cassette 100 and moves the
10 longitudinal paper-aligning guide 110 and the lateral paper-aligning guide 120 to be closely
11 aligned to the sheets of paper, the signal-producing panel 210 and the second slide member 220
12 are interlocked to the respectively determined setting positions thereof.

13 [0049] According to this, a communicating state formed through a combination of the second
14 through fourth fixed signal openings 201b through 201d formed in the wall of the cassette 100
15 and the plural movable signal openings 211 formed in the signal-producing panel 210, and
16 opened/closed (on/off) states of the first fixed signal opening 201a formed in the wall of the
17 cassette 100 by means of the slide member 220, are combined to each other, forming a
18 communicating openings arranged in a particular pattern that produces a unique signal code for

1 defining a size of the paper loaded in the cassette 100.

2 [0050] FIG. 4 is a plan view for showing in detail a signal code system for paper sizes
3 produced in correspondence to the number of cases for combinations of the first to fourth fixed
4 signal openings 201a to 201d and the movable signal opening 211 in accordance with the
5 preferred embodiment of the present invention.

6 [0051] As shown in FIG. 4, for the paper size A3 as an example, a signal code is produced in
7 which each of the first fixed signal opening 201a, the second fixed signal opening 201b, and the
8 fourth fixed signal opening 201d is in a closed state (off) by the body of the signal-producing
9 panel 210 and the third fixed signal opening 201c is in an open state (on) in communication with
10 a particular movable signal opening 211 of the signal-producing panel 210.

11 [0052] Further, for the paper size B4 as an example, a signal code is provided in which each of
12 the first fixed signal opening 201a and the third fixed signal opening 201c is in a closed state
13 (off) by the body of the signal-producing panel 210 and the second fixed signal opening 201b and
14 the fourth fixed signal opening 201d is in an open state (on) in communication with a particular
15 movable signal opening 211 of the signal-producing panel 210.

16 [0053] The signal codes as stated above are only examples, and unique signal codes for paper
17 sizes may be defined as various forms upon initial settings, and, particularly, for example, even

1 unique signal codes for particular paper sizes such as standard envelopes, post cards, and so on
2 may be defined as above, to thereby enable such particular paper sizes to be recognized.

3 [0054] Accordingly, with the paper size recognizing device for an image forming apparatus, in
4 case that the cassette 100 of producing a signal code with respect to the information on a page
5 size as stated above is loaded in the main body 10 of an image forming apparatus, it is
6 determined whether each of the slide pins 311 to 314 performs linear movements according to an
7 arranged shape of communicated openings based on the signal code. That is, slide pins mounted
8 in positions corresponding to on-state fixed signal openings out of the first through fourth fixed
9 signal openings 201a through 201d penetrate into the on-state communicating openings to
10 maintain the initially set positions and posture even though the cassette 100 is loaded, and slide
11 pins mounted in positions corresponding to off-state fixed signal openings out of the first through
12 fourth fixed signal openings 201a through 201d are pressed by off-state communicating openings
13 to perform linear movements upon loading the cassette 100. At this time, the photo sensors P
14 detect the linear movements of the respective slide pins 311 to 314 and transmit a signal to the
15 controller 400, so that the controller 400 outputs as a signal the information on a size of the paper
16 loaded in the cassette 100 for a display.

17 [0055] In the paper size recognizing device for an image forming apparatus according to the
18 present invention, the number and arrangement pattern of the fixed signal openings 201 formed
19 in the sidewall of the cassette 100 and the movable signal openings 211 formed in the signal-

1 producing panel 210 is not limited to the above embodiment but may change in various forms of
2 embodiments. Further, a paper size corresponding to the on/off state of the fixed signal openings
3 201 and the movable signal openings 211 can be defined by changing in various forms upon
4 initial setting.

5 [0056] As stated above, with the paper size recognizing device of an image forming apparatus
6 according to the present invention, an effect is obtained that the paper size can be automatically
7 recognized and the information thereof is provided in real time upon loading a cassette that holds
8 paper of various sizes, from usual standard paper sizes to particular standard informal paper sizes
9 such as envelopes, post cards, and so on.

10 [0057] The foregoing paragraphs describe the details of a paper size recognizing device for
11 recognizing a size of paper loaded on a cassette of an image forming apparatus such as a laser
12 printer and, more particularly, describe the details of a paper size recognizing apparatus for an
13 image forming apparatus, capable of automatically recognizing and providing in real-time
14 information on diverse standardized or non-standardized paper sizes upon loading a cassette.

15 [0058] While the present invention has been illustrated by the description of embodiments
16 thereof, and while the embodiments have been described in considerable detail, it is not the
17 intention of the applicant to restrict or in any way limit the scope of the appended claims to such
18 detail. Additional advantages and modifications will readily appear to those skilled in the art.

1 Therefore, the invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific details, representative
2 apparatus and method, and illustrative examples shown and described. Accordingly, departures
3 may be made from such details without departing from the spirit or scope of the applicant's
4 general inventive concept.